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Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam

Volume XXXIV. Number 16.

LOUISA, LAWRENCE COUNTY, KENTUCKY, DECEMBER 20, 1918.

M. F. CONLEY, Publisher

## ED. SPENCER TELLS OF HIS NARROW ESCAPES

MISSED SAILING ON ILL FATED TUSCANIA BY SLIGHT MARGIN.

The following interesting letter was written on Father's Day to Mr. D. C. Spencer, the Louisa merchant, by his son, Ed. of the U. S. Aero service: Sunday (Dad's Day) Nov. 24, 1918.

My Dearest Father:—Today has been set apart for "Dad's Day" so I'm going to spend just a few minutes writing to the finest dad in the world. I expect most of us boys have neglected to write dad (and I am one of them) but don't think you have been forgotten.

This is supposed to reach you in time for Christmas but from the way things look now I will be able to tell you more personally than I could write in a month. We can tell you (not everybody else) nearly everything we have done and everywhere we have been; where we are now—in fact we could write a 50 page letter easily. Wish I had time to write you everything, but will tell you just a little now.

Well, guess you know about me leaving Washington to "join up," then to Fort Thomas and Kelly Field. Kelly Field was bad enough and every one was glad to get away (and have wished many times to be back). Then Park Field, Tenn. was our home. Those were the good old days and we certainly enjoyed our stay there.

We left Park Field January 21 and arrived in Garden City January 30. Left for overseas February 15. Just before we left we learned of the Tuscania accident and were warned how particular we must be in our writing. We were to be off on that ship, but didn't get off. We got up on the morning of February 16 at 2 o'clock. No one had taken his clothes off and we were ready to go in about 10 minutes. It was cold and dark and the tramp, tramp, tramp of steel heels of 2000 men sounded strange to me—but good. We piled in coaches with no one to say good bye, but a few fellows—and I didn't know them. Went from Garden City to New York, got on the ferry and went down—or up—the Hudson, saw the old statue, and finally landed at the dock. We were shortly loaded on boat—down in the hold—and began to settle down as best we could for our trip. We left Saturday afternoon, February 16, at 3 o'clock. We had to all go below deck when we left. We played around the harbor until dark and then slipped out. The last thing I saw was the old Statue of Liberty with its many lights. Of course we had our life belts on and had to wear them all the time. We pulled in Halifax harbor Monday afternoon and stayed there until Thursday. Gee, but it was cold, 42 degrees below zero. We waited for our convey here and left Thursday afternoon. We were in Halifax just after the explosion and the damage was awful. We saw the boat which contained the explosive. The San Diego was our cruise ship on the way over. You remember she was ruined or torpedoed recently. Our boat was the "Carmania," and fairly comfortable. There were 12 aero squadrons, two or three medical detachments, about 300 nurses, and 500 officers on board. We had an enjoyable trip.

The first Saturday out I was Sgt. of the guard, and that night it was the one rough night we had. The sea was wild and quite a few were sick. I was fortunate to escape.

We had boat drill, callisthenics, boxing matches, singing, dancing, etc., to amuse us. At night no smoking was allowed on deck. We had a phonograph and used to dance on deck in the moonlight. During the day we used to watch the sea for a sign of ships or anything of life. We used to wish for a submarine—but never one came. The days and nights were always the same. The cats were not very good, but we managed to get through with the aid of three cats. Our bunks were about 2 1/2 ft. wide but slept pretty good.

The San Diego left us Wednesday evening about 6 o'clock. We were to continue (Continued on page four)

## TEACHERS MONEY FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 16.—State Superintendent of schools Gilbert will pay over a million dollars to the teachers of the state by the latter part of the week. He will draw warrants on the school fund for \$1,150,423.52 by Thursday. The money paid to the teachers will cover the October and November salaries.

This will be good news to the teachers, as they will get their money in time for the holiday season.

LOUISA BOYS IN FRANCE. Louisa relatives have heard this week from Wm. R. Myers, Jim Heston and Coley Dameron, who are in France. They are all right.

Wm. Myers has been transferred to a New York unit from the 35th.

## MRS. R. F. WALTERS DIES AT WASHINGTON

Mrs. Roscoe F. Walters died in Washington city Wednesday of pneumonia, leaving a husband and three small children. The body will be brought to Catlettsburg, where the burial will take place Friday at two o'clock.

Mrs. Walters was a Miss Callahan of Louisiana. Mr. Walters met and married her in Catlettsburg. She was a most excellent woman and her death is deeply deplored. The husband is a son of M. M. Walters of Blaine, one of the very best citizens in our county. Also, he is a brother of Luther M. Walters, and of Mrs. D. J. Thompson of Webbville.

## JOHN MAYO WINS HIGHEST PLACE IN SCHOOL.

John C. C. Mayo, of Ashland, has won the highest position in the Tennessee Military Institute, that of Cadet Major. The appointment was gained on merit, he having scored the highest in the examinations. John has been a good student all along and bids fair to take high rank in the world, as his father did. He is a young man of good habits and fine promise.

## SOLDIER BLINDED IN BATTLE SOFTENS HEART OF DOUGHBOY

The Louisville Courier-Journal says: A typical Sunday afternoon crowd filled the Fourth street pavements enjoying their brilliant sunshine, the while stopping and gazing at the Christmas displays in the show windows. Doughboys idled their time between visits to the different shows or listened to the tales of their comrades.

## MRS. W. J. VAUGHAN DIES OF PNEUMONIA

Another death from influenza which brings genuine sorrow to many friends was that of Mrs. W. J. Vaughan, which occurred at her home near Louisa last Monday night. Pneumonia developed after a few days illness. The news of her death came as a shock, as but few knew she was ill.

She was a woman devoted to her family and home and her loss is indeed a great one. In the home are six children, ages ranging from a baby a few months old to a grown son. To each of these and her husband and his mother, who has been blind several years and makes her home with them, the loss is irreparable.

Mrs. Vaughan was Miss Margaret Ann Hutchison of Fallsburg, age 43, a daughter of Vint Hutchison, deceased. She was a model young woman and an excellent teacher in the county schools before her marriage. From childhood she was a devout Christian and her life was an inspiration to all with whom she came in contact. She was a member of the M. E. Church South.

Besides her immediate family she is survived by two brothers, L. N. Hutchison of Fallsburg and Fred Hutchison of Williamson W. Va., and two sisters, Mrs. G. W. Norris and Miss Eliza Hutchison of Fallsburg. The oldest son, Willie, was called home from school at Georgetown, Ky., by his mother's illness and he was the only member of the family able to attend the funeral and burial.

The bereaved husband is the well known Sunday school Field Worker, whose work for several years has taken him into almost every county in Kentucky. He is quite ill.

Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock the funeral was held at the residence. Rev. H. B. Hewlett preached the funeral and Rev. J. T. Pope assisted with the services. Interment was made in the family burial ground.

## M. E. CHURCH SOUTH.

"The Everlasting Kingdom of an Eternal King." This is the subject of the morning sermon. "Influencer" will be discussed at the evening service.

Morning service 10:30. Evening service 6:30. Prayer meeting 6:30 Wednesday. Bible Class 6:30 Thursday. Sunday school 9:00 a. m. Epworth League 5:30 p. m. Sunday.

## FURNISS PRODUCE COMPANY CLOSED BY THE SHERIFF

The Furniss Produce company, doing business at Louisa, was closed by the Sheriff Tuesday upon attachments sued out by creditors. Mr. Furniss lives at Columbia, Ohio.

## DEATH LIST TO BE COMPLETE BY DEC. TWENTY

GENERAL PERSHING SAYS ALL NAMES EXPECTED TO REACH WASHINGTON BY THIS DATE

Washington, Dec. 16.—General Pershing cabled the War Department today that practically complete reports of deaths in action among the expeditionary forces should reach the department by December 20 and of severely wounded by Dec. 27.

General Pershing said that the number of unreported casualties in process of verification at the central records office of the expeditionary forces on December 14 was 40,440. They were divided as follows: Killed in action, 390; died of wounds, 273; died of disease, 353; accidentally killed, 51; severely wounded in action, 59,371. These include all "supreme cases under investigation" the general said.

General Pershing reported that the number of duplicated casualties discovered in the central records office since November 27 would not operate to reduce the total for the entire expeditionary forces given in his summary of that date, an additional casualties reported more than offset the duplicates.

## SOLDIERS RETURN.

Jim Evans has returned home from camp in Virginia. He was in the aviation service. Edgar Fitch has returned from a Georgia camp. Both have been mustered out. Creed Heston has arrived, accompanied by his wife.

## M. E. CHURCH.

Prof. E. M. Kennison will preach at the M. E. Church next Sunday, December 22, both morning and evening. On December 23, Rev. Isaiah Cline will preach at both morning and evening services. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the morning service December 29.

## CAPT. SEE IN FRANCE.

Capt. Mart See is now in France. For several years he had been on the Mexican border. He is a native of this place.

## MISS VESTA SKAGGS IS SAFE IN BELGIUM

Oscar Skaggs of Terryville, was in Louisa Wednesday. A report through a soldier's letter was that his sister, Miss Vesta Skaggs, a Red Cross nurse had been killed, but since then the family has received a letter from her written in Belgium after the armistice was signed.

## McKINLEY MUNCEY SAFE.

Letters have been received from Pvt. McKinley Muncey, Co. C, 113 Infantry stating he is safe somewhere in France. Private Muncey has been on the firing line several times, but has come through without an injury. He took part in the fight of Argonne Forest. He says the hardest and most severe fighting was Oct. 14, and October 23.

## ACCIDENTALLY SHOT.

Lawrence Giles, 15, son of Judge Tandy Giles of Grayson, while on his way to work was carrying a shot gun, hoping to shoot a rabbit. He accidentally discharged the gun badly tearing his right hand and shooting off some of the fingers.

## WM. MARCUM KILLED.

Wm. Marcum, 25, of Carpenter, O., was killed in a coal mine at Sesser Ill. He was crushed between two cars and instantly killed. He had returned recently from army service and had been at work in the mine about ten days. He lived in Louisa a few years ago.

## KILLED BY TRAIN.

Curtis Robinson, 17, and Lee Dollarhide, 19 both of Van Lear, were struck by a freight train last Friday about a mile east of Van Lear Junction. Robinson was killed instantly and Dollarhide was injured. Both had been employed in the mines.

They were asleep on the track when struck. The next day Dollarhide confessed to the authorities at Paintsville that they had robbed the East Point post office the night before. A number of robberies have been reported in that section within the past few months. Dollarhide will be turned over to the Federal authorities and taken to Catlettsburg for trial.

## HIGE HOLBROOK DIES.

One of upper Blaine's good citizens, Mr. Hige Holbrook, died last Saturday after a long illness of stomach trouble.

## FINE WEATHER HERE.

For the information of NEWS readers scattered over the world we record the fact that we are having the finest weather possible and have had nearly all fall and winter up to this time. The sun is shining bright and warm and the temperature is just right to be bracing and healthful.

## WAR WORK SUBSCRIPTIONS.

First installments past due on United War Work subscriptions. Please pay at one of the banks or to me personally. H. O. CHAMBERS, County Treasurer.

## OTTO GARTIN SAFE IN FRANCE

Mr. J. P. Gartin and family received the following letter from Otto Gartin, written on "Father's Day." They had only one short letter since he went to France and did not know whether he had been on the firing line:

November 24. Dear Mamma, Papa and boys:—Dad, I guess this will be mostly a letter to you, and a Christmas letter to you all. Have hardly written you one letter since coming to France. I am now at Base Hospital No. 1, Vichy, France. The hospital is located in Carlton hotel building. You see the censorship has raised so I can tell you something of what I have been doing. I have not been wounded, but got a sprained hip on a hike recently and was sent to hospital to get in shape again. I have been here almost a week and expect to leave in a few days.

Now for a little history. We left Camp Mills, L. I. early by train the morning of September 30 for New York; embarked on large ferry boat which took us down the Hudson or East river to the docks where we embarked on the large English ship "Acquitania," the second largest ship afloat as well as one of the fastest. We set sail from New York harbor about 4 p. m. October 2 for "over here." People waved good bye from neighboring boats factory windows and shore while we were steaming out. And even the "Goddess of Liberty" which stands in the harbor with her hand pointed heavenward seemed to say "Good luck and a happy return." At last we were out to sea—torpedo boat destroyers and an aeroplane or two going out a few miles with us—and when darkness came they returned. The "Acquitania" now steamed ahead taking zigzag course for the open sea for England. The sea got rough and heavy and the high ship would roll and rock. Our company furnished the lifeboat detail together with part of the ship's crew. I was one of the detail. It was our duty, in case we were torpedoed, to lower lifeboats and see that everybody got off before we were to leave ship. Lots of the fellows got very sick, but your soldier boy got just a little bit sick. About a day out from England some of Uncle Sam's torpedo boat destroyers met us and guarded us on in. We landed at Southampton, England about 4 p. m. October 9. Stayed all night at rest camp and next afternoon embarked on U. S. ship for France. Landed next morning at LaHavre, France. Was in rest camp there a few days. From there we entrained and went to Nantes, France, a day or two's ride in horse cars. There we went into billets—houses, barns, etc. There is where the flower garden is, the old aristocratic lady and three daughters. We remained there and drilled for some time. They took "replacement bunch" out of our regiment and sent them to front, leaving about 30 in our company. Then came an order to leave our division, the 35th and of course our regiment. They took the rest of us for another replacement and we left out for Nantes Sunday morning, November 2, for the front or to be used where they wanted to use us. We stopped at Le Mans at a rest camp a day or two, then entrained in horse cars and rode for another day or two to Les Islettes where there is a large American cemetery and where the Americans started some of their fighting, running the Germans back. The town is shot all to pieces like a great many of the towns where the Germans have been. We stayed here a few days and while here saw Asa Meek, who lives about two miles back of Louisa. He is the only fellow I have seen from home. On about the 10th we started on hike with heavy packs across country to get with 77th division, 35th regiment Infantry, to which we had been assigned. We marched through the Argonne forest where our boys had already run the Germans out for two days and a half and went into camp and rested one day. In the meantime we had heard of the armistice being signed. Of course we were all glad the thing was over.

The 77th Division had been in the fighting almost continuously since June or July. We started on to hike to them when I sprained my hip and couldn't hike without great pain so at Beaumont near the Meuse river where the marines had suffered greatly in crossing right at the close of the fighting, I was sent back in an ambulance to a field hospital, from that one to another and from that by train to where I am.

In one of the rooms in which I stayed all night in Beaumont when the Americans got there they found an old Frenchman stuck to the wall with bayonet. The huns were just regular devils. Probably the Kaiser and his clerk will have a little time to think it over now.

I expect to leave here shortly as I am about well now and my hip is feeling in pretty good shape. As the war is over now I am anxious to get back home. I may have to stay here a few months yet and do guard duty in Germany. I don't know.

I haven't heard from home for some time, but hope you all are well. As I don't know whether they will send me to the 77th, address me Vichy, France, Base Hospital No. 1, A. P. O. 781. Merry Christmas and love to you all. OTTO.

## BUYS FARM IN OHIO.

A. J. Mounts has purchased a farm in Ohio and expects to move to it later. His friends here will regret to lose him.

## "THE CRASH OF SILENCE" AT CLOSE OF WAR

VIVID DESCRIPTION OF THE LAST MOMENT BY DICK HAGER OF ASHLAND.

First Lieutenant Dick Hager, son of Hon. John F. Hager, of Ashland, has written some intensely interesting letters from the battlefields of France during the past few months. We have been prevented by the limitations of help, etc., from copying some of the ones that were published by his home paper. They are models of descriptive writing. We have the pleasure of printing herewith his most recent letter, written just after the armistice was signed. It is a remarkable description of the "shock" accompanying the sudden cessation of the awful battles suddenly ended by the armistice.

Dick was a member of the 30th or "Wild Cat Division," which took part in the fiercest fighting and is credited with having lost more men than any other. His brigade was the 55th Field Artillery. They began in Flanders at Mt. Kemmel later were with Haig's troops at Cambria. St. Quentin sector, with the French in the forest of St. Gobain, then transferred to Verdun sector; next through Argonne forest to Sedan. Last week he was on seven days leave to Paris, visiting his sister's husband, Capt. Wulfin, after which he will rejoin his regiment as part of the army of occupation at the Rhine. Dick has a wife and child at Nashville, Tenn.

## ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES IN FRANCE.

November 11, 1918.

Dear Dad and Mother:—God certainly seems close to all soldiers on this the greatest day in the history of the world. Here I am in my position on a high hill, our big guns silent, and after all the din of this big thing the silence is uncanny. We had passed a hard long night and were pumping them over at a great rate, when the portentous word came at all firing to cease, and on a certain moment silence fell, almost as a crash upon a continual roar of miles of guns in lines jammed on both sides.

We looked from one to another with strange and wonderful lights in our faces, when realizing that the first fruits of the world's greatest victory were with us. It just could not be true! The thing seemed too big to end so abruptly was next in our thoughts. But aside from the clanking of the ramrods as the boys cleaned the big guns after a hot session which may prove to be among the last few shots of the long and dreadful struggle, we could even hear the autumn leaves fall, and for the moment these huge engines of warfare seemed innocent as huge farm implements. Could it be true that one could actually walk about to meals or anywhere without the eternal freshness of some hungry shell looking for a bite at his hide? The Great God must have smiled His love down on us, as the clouds soon left the sky, a chill air became warm, and the sun came out in brightness. Think of such a picture! But a few hundred yards from a hated, active enemy, with a continual rumble overhead, ceasing suddenly as if by magic to a dead calm, with not even a rifle bullet popping! The grand elation moment of peace and victory had arrived. The slaughter of war had ended and humanity at large could acclaim a victory that even the enemy must well come.

Later we got news by wireless what it all meant, and heard the terms which at this time practically ends all possibility of more fighting. Some wanted to shout, but perfect order and discipline prevailed. Our first shots were a wonder as to what might be the feeling of the people back in the States. Frenchmen were singing and our Yanks whistling while shining up their guns just as if the whole thing was a matter of every day occurrence.

Our sector had become very lively in the last few weeks. We had all (Continued on page four.)

## BIG SANDIANS CALLED JAN. 3 TO PAINTSVILLE

As the result of a movement started by a few men in the Big Sandy Valley a meeting is called for January 3, 1919, at Paintsville, 10 a. m. to formulate plans for building a highway from Ashland to Pikeville. By using State and National aid to the largest possible extent the project is considered entirely feasible. Representatives from all counties in the valley are urged to attend.

## A GOOD WELL.

An oil well that looks to be a good producer has been drilled on a lease belonging to F. H. Yates and W. F. Austin near Potter, this county.

## THE INFLUENZA.

Louisa is practically free of influenza now. Everything is wide open and the situation is satisfactory.

## LETTER FROM JACK THOMPSON

November 24, 1918. Somewhere in France.

Mr. Milt Conley, Louisa, Kentucky. Dear Mr. Conley:—I hope these few lines will be the last few lines from France. A few days ago I wrote from the hospital. I promised I would write you again when I got back to my Regiment. I am back to my company now and found all the boys O. K., except two of them and they are lost. I sure am sorry for their people. I'll not say who they are. I suppose their people know about it by this time.

Clell Vaughan of Richmond, Ky., and Arlie Bevins of Georges creek are the only two boys we lost from Lawrence county. There is quite a number of them sick and wounded in the hospital, but they are getting along fine.

Emmett Sparks came to his company yesterday. He was slightly wounded.

I don't think the Kaiser Bill will start anything anywise soon as I think he has got enough to do him a while. I was on my way back from the hospital to my company when I heard peace was made and somehow I thought it was too good to be true and now I do believe it is about half way true. In my heart I still have a feeling that I am not safe until I put my foot on old U. S. soil and I sure hope that will be real soon.

Well, friends, there have been a great many of you who have written to me in the last month I know, and since I got wounded I was transferred from one hospital to another all over France and my mail is still going. Most of it I won't get until I am settled down in the States somewhere and you know I like to hear from all my friends. I hope the next letter I get from you all I'll be in Louisa. When I get to Louisa you all will know it and as the weather will be very cold I don't think I will do much business and I will come to see you all.

One thing we have got before us yet and that is the little creek and when we cross it this time I hope we won't have to cross it any more. I don't know any more I can say this time. Maybe I will have more next time to tell you. My best regards to you all. Your friend, JACK. Pvt. J. K. Tannehouse, Co. F, 113 Inf., American E. F.

## MARRIAGE LICENSES.

R. B. Kimble, 21, to Annie Webb, 21, of Fort Gay. Fred Stanley, 19, to Hester Benard, 21.

## DEATH SENTENCE 10-YEAR

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 12.—Am. Lehigh, whose sentence of sixteen years for killing Lafa Kitchen in Carter county recently, was affirmed, died today of influenza in the State reformatory.

## LAWRENCE COUNTY RED CROSS WORK

It is too early to make a report on the Roll Call as the Roll is constantly increasing. We have had our fears that the terrible new disease "Im-mu-ni-zation" might strike us. But as vaccine has been found for this malady our fears are vanishing. Next week's issue will have at least a partial report.

Be sure to wear your Red Cross button when the boys come home.

## Home Service Section.

The increasing interest can be shown in this section by the office record. Through this section of each Chapter the American Red Cross will work out a large part of the after-war program.

The Home Service Section is planning a program for all the Lawrence county soldiers who will have returned by Washington's birthday, Feb. 22. Be sure to wear your Red Cross button when the boys come home.

## Junior Red Cross.

Only the Louisa Public School was represented at the Junior Bazaar last Saturday. The rain may have chilled the interest of some but \$20.00 was added to the Junior Fund.

Story-book making will cease this week as the schools of the United States have made sufficient to supply all present demands.

The Juniors now have a quota of 230 handkerchiefs to be made for the Medical Department of the U. S. Army. Those able to sew will assist in the making of 45 infants'ayette for children overseas.

Be sure to wear your Red Cross button when the boys come home.

## Four-Minute Speakers' Contest at Eldorado.

The contestants were ready last Saturday but as the weather was very bad and no country schools were represented the contest was postponed till Saturday Dec. 21, at 1:30 p. m. A very interesting set of 50 stereopticon slides will be shown before the contest opens. The slides are the official pictures on the Junior Red Cross. Be sure to wear your Red Cross button when the boys come home.

Banner Auxiliary, Walbridge, sends in \$67.65 for the treasury, and the Run Chasers, Blaine, keep up the good work with \$57.75.